

RECEIVED

AD HOC PATRIOTIC COMMITTEE MEETING

March 25th, 2014 7:00p.m.

Town Hall Annex Meeting Room

APR - 1 2014

TOWN OF ELLINGTON
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Minutes

Members Present: Wilson Flynn, J. Wiley Dumas, Alan Lewandosky, James Stemmerman, Bruce Warkentin

Members Absent: John Takach, David Grim, Jeffrey Martin, Michael Varney

Others Present: Ricci Hirth

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Wilson Flynn called the meeting to order at 7:09 P.M. The group recited the Pledge of Allegiance. A roll call determined that a quorum was present.

In the absence of Mr. Grim, Chairman Flynn asked Vice-chairman Dumas if he would record the minutes. Mr. Dumas stated he would.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 25th, 2014
MOVED (DUMAS), SECONDED (STEMMERMAN) AND PASSED
UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED

III. NON-AGENDA ITEMS (Public Forum):

Mr. Ricci Hirth, 51 Sandy Beach Road, came before the committee to clarify the decision (Jan. 2013) to have a bench placed at Veterans' Memorial Park (Crystal Lake) in memory of Tom Minor, a Vietnam-era veteran. Mr. Dumas and Mr. Stemmerman both stated that the Patriotic Committee had approved the bench, and that the decision was now with the Ellington Board of Selectmen. Mr. Hirth thanked the committee and said he would pursue this issue with the BOS.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. **Signage:** Chairman Flynn informed the committee that he had priced signs that would be used for various events at approximately \$100 per sign from a local business. The committee discussed the initial number of signs and determined that four (4) would be initially purchased. MOVED (DUMAS), SECONDED (STEMMERMAN) AND APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY TO PURCHASE 4 SIGNS FROM 'SIGN CONNECTION' at a total of (approx.) \$400.

b. **Website:** Chairman Flynn informed the committee that, as a matter of formality, the committee vote to have the website linked to the Town of Ellington's official website in the link for Civic and other groups. Mr. Dumas stated that the Office of the First Selectman would require updates on any 'non-static' information of the site, such as meeting dates and events.

MOVED (DUMAS) SECONDED (STEMMERMAN) AND APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY TO HAVE THE PATRIOTIC COMMITTEE WEBSITE LINKED TO THE TOWN OF ELLINGTON WEBSITE.

c. **Memorial Day Program:** Chairman Flynn informed the committee that he has received the paperwork for various permissions from the high school and the request for a microphone, speaker, and podium, in addition to constables. Mr. Stemmerman and Mr. Lewandosky stated that this is normally handled through the Town (Office of the First Selectman) and that this is merely a matter of formality. Chairman Flynn stated that he would personally deliver the requests to the Town.

Mr. Warkentin informed the committee of his correspondence with faculty at Ellington Middle School to have students, with the guidance of teachers, interview several local WW-2 veterans on their experiences, and have the students relate these, acting as the speakers for this year's Memorial Day program. Mr. Warkentin stated that he would contact Mr. David Pearson, Principal, and will update the committee on this during the April meeting.

Mr. Lewandosky stated that flags had been ordered.

Mr. Dumas stated that he had been informed by Mr. Martin that the requested 'Flyover' had been approved.

The committee discussed the matter of transportation for the older veterans.

Mr. Stemmerman informed the committee that he had been informed that no scrapyard would accept the bronze plaques that are placed on Veterans' graves. He also stated that he would discuss the proposed 'Field of Flags idea with the Cemetery Association, and had hopes that this would draw more people into the cemetery for the formal event, rather than have them leave after the event on the Town Green.

d. **Wreaths Across America:** The committee members will be present Saturday, March 29th, at 8:30am at the cemetery to remove any wreaths still remaining from last year's WAA observance. Mr. Dumas stated that he would contact Public Works to assist in disposal of the wreaths.

The committee will from this point forward utilize the February meeting to determine a date when to remove the wreaths in the future.

Additional action on this year's WAA observance will take place in the upcoming months.

e. **Youth Membership & Code of Conduct:** Mr. Dumas stated that he has heard nothing further from the Office of the First Selectman regarding the Code of

Conduct that is still to be implemented before any interested youth can become Associate members of the Patriotic Committee. Mr. Dumas also stated that he knows of a young lady who has an interest in joining, and that this could result in her father joining as well. Chairman Flynn asked Mr. Dumas if he would again approach the Office of the First Selectman to find out the status of the draft that he (Mr. Dumas) submitted several months ago. Mr. Dumas said that he would send an e-mail request to the appropriate persons on this matter.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Mr. Stemmerman made note of the fact that the various Boards and Commissions in town do not seem to share information that could involve another board or commission. Mr. Stemmerman suggested that a unilateral council, consisting of representatives from the various boards and commissions could alleviate this problem and could also remedy many delays regarding certain events. Mr. Stemmerman also stated that this could bring more of the public to the meetings and develop an interest. The committee will discuss Mr. Stemmerman's idea, and how to best initiate and implement it, in more detail in subsequent meetings.

VI. ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED (DUMAS), SECONDED (LEWANDOWSKY) AND PASSED
UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:40 P.M.

Submitted by:


J Wiley Dumas, Vice-chairman